

as he suggests, though perhaps less convenient term, *os furculatorium*. R. W. SHUFELDT

Fort Wingate, New Mexico, October 8

Metric or English Measures?

WOULD any of your readers have the great kindness to give me their opinion on the following question?

In writing a school-book in which such branches of physics as dynamics and heat are to be treated in a very elementary but exact way, would it be best to use the metric system or the English system of weights and measures?

Personally, I am strongly inclined to take the former course; it seems to me that as soon as a boy's scientific education begins he should make acquaintance with the units of measurement now generally adopted by scientific men throughout the world.

E. R. P.

CHARLES ROBIN

ON the 6th of last month died in Josseron (Department l'Ain) Charles Robin, sixty-four years old. He was one of the few men in Europe who may be justly considered the founders of modern histology. Although some of his views, as, for instance, on the formation of cells out of a blastema, are now only of historical interest, there remain a considerable number of valuable facts which he has contributed to histology, anatomy, and zoology. A chair of General Anatomy was created for him in 1862 in the Paris Faculty of Medicine, and here he always collected round him a number of ardent students who, under his direction and imbued with his ideas, did excellent work in histology. He was, in fact, until a few years back (until Ranvier) the only exponent of and original worker in histology in France. There is hardly a chapter in this science to which he has not largely contributed. His chief works are "The Natural History of Vegetable Parasites in Man and Animals"; "On the Tissues and Secretions"; and his many articles in the "Dictionnaire Encyclopédique des Sciences Médicales."

THE LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

THE credit of the inception of the idea of the practicability of carrying on an International Exhibition at Liverpool appears to be due to Alderman David Radcliffe, the present Mayor of the City, who laid it before Lord Derby, who at once became the first guarantor of a fund which now exceeds 60,000*l*. The support this movement has now secured in England and on the Continent renders its success assured.

It is a matter of surprise that no International Exhibition has ever yet taken place in the North of England, when the fact is remembered, commented on by Lord Derby at the last annual banquet given to him by the Mayor of Liverpool, that the inhabitants of that City and the district lying within a radius of fifty miles of it are as numerous as those of the City of London, and the greater London, which lies within a radius of fifty miles of St. Paul's. The value of exhibitions it is difficult to over-estimate. Visitors however unintelligent must of necessity learn something of the processes and methods carried out by their countrymen in the arts and manufactures, while the exhibitors increase their technical grasp, and get their thoughts removed from stereotyped grooves by the inspection of products from countries where workmen obtain so much larger a share of technical education, based on practical science, than is accorded by the education department of this country.

Placed as is Britain, as it were between Europe and America, an Exhibition of Navigation and Travel

would at all times appear to be singularly appropriate; but this has still greater significance at Liverpool, itself the second, if not the first, seaport of the world. This is rendered still more important from the evident care evinced by the projectors that the Exhibition should be on a scientific basis, and that it should be the means of spreading accurate scientific and technical knowledge in the construction and manipulation of all the appliances of locomotion, travel, and transport by sea and land, by rivers, by air, or through cultivated lands, or across the desert. In addition to this it is proposed, should, as is hoped, a surplus be realised at the end of the Exhibition, that it be devoted to the foundation of a school of technical education, to be called after the late Prince Leopold, whose last public appearance in Liverpool was marked by special advocacy of the claims of technical education.

Commerce and manufactures are also to be represented, including all substances used in the arts derived from animals, from vegetables, and from metallic and non-metallic minerals.

The Corporation of Liverpool has granted a site of 35 acres near the Edge Hill Station of the London and North-Western Railway; fountains, bands, and electric illuminated trees are to reproduce the features of South Kensington, and the scheme is not only supported by the cities of the north, but by Paris, Vienna, and Berlin, while Belgium, Sweden, and other countries, and the Isle of Man, are applying for courts. The Exhibition will be opened in May next year, and continue open for six months.

C. E. DE RANCE

DR. GOULD'S WORK IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

WE have from time to time during the last fifteen years recorded the progress made by Dr. Gould in his stupendous work on the southern stars. He has now returned to the United States, and we are glad to be able to give an account of the reception he met with on his return. Rarely has such a reception been better deserved, and carried out as it was it did credit to science all the world over, as well as to the country and the man most closely interested.

A letter signed by upwards of eighty of the most prominent men in Boston awaited Dr. Gould's arrival, asking him to fix a date "when it will be agreeable for you to meet us at a dinner, that we may welcome you home."

Pursuant to arrangement a reception and dinner took place at the Hotel Vendôme, Boston, on the evening of May 6, 1885. The Hon. Leverett Saltonstall presided, and, after the banquet, arose to introduce the guest of the evening. The president referred to Dr. Gould's early career and his hard work:—"We have thus met," he said, "that we may extend to Dr. Gould our most cordial welcome, to show him our high respect for his character and attainments, to express to him our deep sympathy for all the severe trials he has been called upon to encounter, and to prove to him in every possible way how proud we are of his high fame, world-wide, as one of the greatest astronomers of this or any former age. . . ."

"When the opportunity presented itself for doing a far greater work than that, in my opinion, accomplished by any astronomer now living, and equalled in extent and importance by but few in any previous age, a work so vast in its design that its mere suggestion might well have staggered a much younger man, he already having passed what is considered the prime of life, courageously took the great step and exiled himself from home, conscious that it was a work which he could scarcely hope to live to complete. He buried himself in a country so far away and so little known that it might well have seemed another world, and with no hope of reward such as the world generally values for all the cause he loves with